REMARKS

The Specification has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Claim 20 has been cancelled. Claims 1-18 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-19 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The rejection is respectfully traversed. MPEP 2106.01 states, "In contrast, a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a data structure defines structural and functional interrelationships between the data structure and the computer software and hardware components which permit the data structure's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory." Claim 19 recites, "the computer program product being embodied in a computer-readable medium and comprising computer instructions for..." and it is believed that claim 19 is directed towards statutory subject matter.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 11, and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Dalgic et al (U.S. Patent No. 7,024,478). Claims 1, 11, and 16-20 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Tonnby et al (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0163131). Claims 2-10 and 12-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dalgic in view of Tarquini (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0101353). Claims 2-10 and 12-15 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Tonnby in view of Tarquini. Those rejections are respectfully traversed.

As amended, claim 1 recites "remotely activating a covert service channel" and "opening the covert service channel." Support for the amendment can be found, without limitation, at page 6 line 11. Conventional authentication techniques "provide an opportunity for an **unauthenticated client** or attacker to access a client" because they allow an attacker to "**know**[] that a service or set of **services is exposed** and can be attacked. Many attackers begin by probing or scanning for systems and services." (Application, page 1 line 15 to page 2 line 9.) In contrast, a **covert** service channel is one "effectively hidden from random port scanners." (Application, page 16 lines 4 to 19.) Dalgic and Tonnby describe conventional authentication

techniques and do not disclose "remotely activating a covert service channel" as recited in amended claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-10 depend from claim1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

As with claim 1, claim 11 recites "remotely activating a covert service channel" and "opening the covert service channel" and is believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Claims 12-15 depend from claim 11 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

As with claim 1, claim 16 recites "activating the covert service channel by opening the port on the host if the trigger is authenticated" and is believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

As with claim 1, claim 17 recites "remotely activating a covert service channel" and "establishing a connection over the covert service channel" and is believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

As with claim 1, claim 18 recites "remotely activating a covert service channel" and permitting "a connection to occur over the covert service channel" and is believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

As with claim 1, claim 19 recites "remotely activating a covert service channel" and "opening the covert service channel" and is believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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